

JPRS: 2810

10 June 1960

SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK

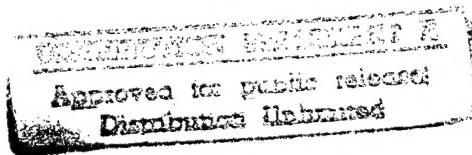
PROVINCIAL PRESS

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(6 - 12 April 1960)

(51st of the series)

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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

Source Coverage : 6 - 12 April 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 6 - 12 April 1960. The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

Source Abbreviations

JP = Jihoceska Pravda (Budejovice)
NS = Nova Svoboda (Ostrava)
P = Pochoden (Hradec Kralove)
Pra = Pravda (Plzen)
Pru = Pruboj (Usti nad Labem)
R = Rovnost (Brno)
VN = Vychodoslovenske Noviny (Kosice)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page	
Source Abbreviations	a	
 <u>PART I. THE GOVERNMENT</u>		
Implementation of Government Policy on a Regional and Local Level	1	
 <u>PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY</u>		
Indoctrination and Propaganda	1	
Party Membership, Dues, Activities	4	
 <u>PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION</u>		6
Transportation and Communications	9	
 <u>PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS</u>		10
Other Items	11	

PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of Government Policy on a Regional and Local Level

[See PART II., below, and PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.]

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda

More than 7,300 persons are taking 1959-60 Party Schooling Year courses in North Bohemian Kraj. But our Party has never considered ideological education a goal in itself : it has always been directed, rather, toward specific needs in our life.

Because we will go through major political events in the near future - such as the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of our liberation, in May, and parliamentary elections, in June - the Party schooling term ends earlier this year, to enable its participants to work as agitators and propagandists. It would therefore be desirable if each student in Party courses were now to receive specific Party task in the field of propaganda and agitation. He can then apply himself and his newly acquired knowledge in the preparation for the forthcoming events. (Pru, 9 Apr 60, p 1)

The Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association of the new North Moravian Kraj meets at a conference on 10 April 1960 to elect a new leadership and to adopt its tasks for the future. The Association has 2,166 branches in the kraj, with more than 245,000 members. Since the beginning of 1960, it has organized a total of 6,517 events, more than half of which dealt with automation in the USSR, Soviet science in the struggle for Communism, the Soviet flag in the Arctic and Antarctic, the 90th anniversary of Lenin's birth, the 15th anniversary of our liberation by the Soviet army, and so on. (NS, 10 Apr 60, p 2)

Over 450 delegates met in Brno at a conference of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association of the new South Moravian Kraj. As one of its 1960 tasks, the Association decided

to recruit 15,000 new members this year, bringing the total membership in the kraj to 330,000. A new kraj committee of 84 members was elected, with a 17-member presidium. (R, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

The extraordinary kraj conference of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association of the new North Bohemian Kraj was attended by 260 delegates and guests. Among them was a representative from the Soviet Embassy, and Health Minister Josef PLOJHAR. The organization now has 175,000 members in the kraj, and plans to recruit 25,000 new ones before the end of 1960. (Pru, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association delegates will meet on 10 April 1960 at an extraordinary kraj conference in Hradec Kralove. They will discuss the tasks facing the organization and its 200,000 members in the new East Bohemian Kraj. (P, 9 Apr 60, p 1)

The merger conference of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association of the new South Bohemian Kraj was held in Ceske Budejovice. It was attended by 260 delegates and guests, among whom was the first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Prague, MELNIROV. The conference pledged to recruit new thousands of working people for membership in the Association. (JP, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

Delegates from the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association branches in West Bohemian Kraj met on 10 April 1960 in conference. They reviewed their past activities, and adopted new tasks. The meeting was addressed by a counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Prague, KLOCHKOV, who pointed to some of the Association's important tasks. It was resolved that a recruitment campaign is to bring the total number of members in the kraj to 135,000 by the end of 1960. (Pra, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

The Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association has 2,379 branches with 203,732 members in the new East Bohemian Kraj. Almost 1,000 Russian language circles are in existence, and during 1959 nearly 2,000 lectures on Soviet literature were organized, as well as thousands of lectures spreading the truth about the Soviet Union. (P, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

A three-man delegation, headed by Comrade Georgievic KHARAKHONICH, member of the Politburo of an oblast committee of the CP of the USSR, visited Kosice in Eastern Slovakia. The occasion was the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Kosice

government program. The Ukrainian delegates paid a visit to several industrial plants in the kraj and to a vineyard. (VN, 7 Apr 60, pp 1-2)

The Polish Cultural and Enlightenment Association organized 1,732 cultural events during 1959. This was reported at the seventh congress of the Association held in Cesky Tesin, North Moravian Kraj, and attended by 189 delegates from 93 local branches, as well as by a delegation from the KSC kraj committee, headed by the committee secretary, Alois KRAL. The Association is part of the National Front. (NS, 12 Apr 60, p 2)

A Soviet CP delegation from Kursk Oblast visited the East Bohemian Kraj. The guests saw the "Agrostroy" plant in Jicin and several agricultural cooperatives, mainly those specializing in sugar beet cultivation. (P, 12 Apr 60, pp 1,3)

On the occasion of the International Memorial Days of the Resistance [against Fascism], a theater performance and a public rally were held in Liberec, North Bohemian Kraj. At the rally, the kraj National Committee chairman, Jan JELINEK, gave six former members of the International Brigade in Spain the Order of the Red Star, which was awarded to them by President NOVOTNY. (Pru, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

Seventy two foreign students from five continents are taking a nine-months course in the Czech language in the "Odkaz Unora" (Legacy of February) [referring to the 1948 coup d'etat] home for foreign students in Mariánské Lázně, West Bohemian Kraj. After completing the course, the students will go to Prague to study at the university. (Pra, 9 Apr 60, p 2)

Just 15 years ago, the Fascist hordes were making every effort to prevent the liberation of hundreds of thousands of concentration camp prisoners by sending them on the ill-famed marches. But if we thought that when the Fascist murderers were defeated, a Fascist regime could never come back, we were mistaken. While the ruins of Hitler Germany were still smoldering, US, British, and French ruling circles made up their minds to use Germany against the growing revolutionary movement of the working masses in Europe.

This is shown by many facts - for instance, that the military staffs of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht were never dissolved, that many Nazi units were left intact, and that as early as 1950, formation of new barrack police units was begun. In West

Germany, Nazis took up the highest offices in the government, judiciary, army, diplomatic service - everywhere. Fascist elements have again become the greatest obstacle to a peaceful understanding between East and West. (P, 9 Apr 60, p 3)

Party Membership, Dues, Activities

Already 60 agitation centers have been opened in Liberec Okres, North Bohemian Kraj. The total number will be 120, with 35 of them in Liberec city. The centers will equip agitators for the May celebrations and the elections in June. (Pru, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

One of the agitation centers, opened to inform voters and hold meetings for them, will be opened in Jablonec nad Jizerou, East Bohemian Kraj. The center will have exhibits of products manufactured in local factories and known abroad. For instance, coils exported to the United Arab Republic will be shown, colorful samples of material, and the many valuable things that can be made from old paper. (P, 9 Apr 60, p 1)

More than 3,000 delegates of basic trade union organizations meet on 9-10 April 1960 at the constituent conferences of the new okres trade union councils in East Slovakian Kraj. After eight years, okres trade union councils are now being revived. They will work under the leadership of the okres Party committees and will be directed by the kraj trade union council in Kosice. (VN, 9 Apr 60, pp 2,3)

Following a resolution of the KSC local branch committee, an agitation center was established in Trutnov, East Bohemian Kraj. The center has at its disposal 200 agitators, who will talk to the people about Party policy, international events, the struggle for peace, and all the questions that are of interest to our working people. Soon the agitators will go out among citizens to invite them to the First of May rally. (P, 12 Apr 60, p 2)

The West Bohemian Party paper is going to publish a series of instructive articles designed to guide newly elected Party functionaries in their work. The articles will help to explain the methods and forms of work Party organizations should use under the new conditions brought about by the new division of krajs and okreses.

The first article concerns the "leading role" of okres

Party committees. Economic tasks and problems are, of course, in the forefront of the Party's interest. For this reason, initiative, planning, proper control of everything that is being done, are imperative on the okres level. This is the first and foremost task of any okres KSC organization.

This active spirit is to penetrate below to the local organizations, and it is up to each okres organization to assume a leading and inspiring - as well as a controlling - role in this respect. Formalism and sheer neglect must be eliminated. Lectures and seminars are to be organized, so that local organization functionaries understand their tasks and responsibilities better. And, in turn, properly educated and trained functionaries of local organizations have to remain in close touch with the people, for the initiative and working capacities of the people are indeed inexhaustible. (Pra, 9 Apr 60, p 2)

The work of Party organizations and organs in the newly established North Moravian Kraj will be of utmost importance, according to D. KOLDER, first secretary of the KSC kraj committee. More initiative, purposefulness, and fulfillment of specific tasks are the order of the day for organizations on all levels. Since the okres Party committees are to continue to perform their duties within the framework of existing administrative units in the transition period between now and the new elections, certain difficulties are bound to appear. The more imperative does it become that the principle of the Party's leading role be applied. Party okres committees must become the very center of management of political, economic, and cultural life in their respective areas. Economic drives and their implementation should be on the top of the list everywhere. Broad perspectives in judging various tasks and problems are required: Therefore, no "okres politics" are to be permitted, no tendencies toward "local patriotism".

New sources of labor are to be tapped for fulfillment of the proud and ambitious plans to build Socialism. Of these, the agricultural tasks are of primary importance, and it is here that a proper Marx-Leninist attitude is required. For this reason, the best of our Party functionaries are now leaving plants and cities and transferring to agricultural cooperatives and state farms.

New cooperatives are to be established in each and every village. In this manner, the power of the Party will be strengthened and broadened in the villages too. Basic organ-

izations, in both the villages and plants of the kraj, form the very backbone of the Party : The forthcoming realization of the new kraj and okres division should greatly help the intensification of Party activities.

Political education and agitation remain the major tasks of the Party organizations' work. The core of this work is to be found in the careful selection of agitators, their placement, and their ideological ammunition. Practically all Party functionaries, whether Party or trade union officials, youth leaders or comrades employed in the various branches of our economy, should become agitators.

The Party press of North Moravian Kraj plays an over-important role in this matter. Eventually, 10 okres papers with a total circulation of 56,000 will be published in the kraj. To this figure, one must add the 100 papers published in the works and plants of the kraj, with a total circulation of 150,000. Moreover, Nova Svoboda is now printing 125,000 copies, and some 90,000 copies of Rude Pravo are distributed daily throughout the kraj.

This represents a major propaganda task-force, and it is up to every correspondent, editor, and distributor to hone it into an effective propaganda weapon, mainly by fully reporting on life and activities in the kraj, the okreses, the plants, and the fields. Once again, Party organizations have a large role to play here, by supplying information and correspondents and by distributing the Party press. (NS, 7 Apr 60, pp 2-3)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

After several months of fulfilling the Plan at an even tempo, production in the Ostrava-Karvina mines began to stagnate. On Tuesday, 5 April 1960, the Plan was fulfilled by only 98.6 percent, and a "loss" of 1,106 tons of coal occurred. The reasons for this development are several, the major one being a certain slackness and over-satisfaction on the part of the miners. They achieved good results in the first quarter of the year, and now are simply relaxing. Moreover, certain shortcomings of organization and management have become apparent.

In order to produce some additional 200,000 tons of coal

by 10 May 1960 (to mark the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army), collectives in all the mines must be mobilized for an all-out production effort. For this reason, the mines' Party committees met yesterday to consider ways and means of assuring a steady decline in the number of mines which do not meet production quotas. Methods to assure an even flow of production during the Easter holidays were also discussed. (NS, 7 Apr 60, p 1)

The weekend of 9-10 April 1960 will be a time of voluntary youth brigade work throughout South Bohemian Kraj. The brigade will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet forces. Young boys and girls, as well as students of the kraj, will help collect and store manure, work in fields and pastures, collect scrap iron, and help out at house construction sites. (JP, 7 Apr 60, p 1)

Some 1,300 collectives throughout West Bohemian Kraj are currently engaged in a contest for the title of "Socialist Work Brigade". This is excellent news - except that sometimes the production results claimed are not controlled on a day-to-day basis, and proper conditions are not always created for fulfillment of the various production pledges, which, more often than not, are rather formalistic and not specific enough. (Pra, 6 Apr 60, p 1)

As of 1 April 1960, a four-shift-a-day system was introduced in the "Zele zarny Bila Cerkev" iron works, in West Bohemian Kraj. (Pra, 6 Apr 60, p 1)

The "Pozemni Stavby" construction works in Karlovy Vary okres are doing badly : In the first quarter of 1960, the construction organization did not deliver the 114 apartment units envisaged in the state plan and thus, owes the economy some 3,000,000 koruny. True, management and workers tried to improve the situation - but their efforts were largely useless.

Reasons for this state of affairs are numerous, and too complicated to be enumerated here. Some building orders were not fulfilled in time because of late deliveries - or even no deliveries at all - of materials or parts like heating units. Elsewhere, labor productivity is low. The blueprinting of various projects is often delayed, a shortage of bricks is an almost daily plague.

No wonder that most of the pledges given earlier by the Kralovy Vary construction works simply remain on paper. And

the organization of Socialist competition is incompetent indeed. (Pra, 8 Apr 60, pp 1-3)

27,344 citizens of the former Usti nad Labem Kraj put in almost 100,000 hours of voluntary brigade work last Saturday and Sunday [9-10 April 1960] beautifying their communities. (Pru, 12 Apr 60, p 1)

"Vitkovicke Zelezarny" (VZKG; "Klement Gottwald" Iron Works in Vitkovice), North Moravian Kraj, will be substantially rebuilt during the Third Five-Year Plan. Until now, the enterprise has been the general manufacturer of all equipment for metallurgical plants. However, starting as of now, it will turn out facilities for its own reconstruction and expansion. The area of the enterprise will be enlarged by more than one-half. It now lacks its own coke, but this situation will be overcome by construction of new coke-oven batteries. Its steel plant will be expanded by new large-volume blast furnaces, and major expansion will take place in the steel-rolling facilities. (NS, 9 Apr 60, p 1)

An activists' meeting of kraj political and agricultural workers was held on 8 April 1960 in Ceske Budejovice, South Bohemian Kraj. The theme was corn cultivation: An increase in the acreage sown to corn was described as being one of the prime tasks in this primarily agricultural kraj. The goal is to sow corn on six-eight percent of all agricultural land of the kraj, as against the present three-four percent. (JP, 12 Apr 60, pp 1,2)

The new wage system has been introduced in the "Zapadoceske Cihelny" brick works in West Bohemian Kraj already in five plants. Now, there was a lot of preparations prior to the introduction of the new system: new properly examined working and production norms were established for each worker, premiums and other benefits were discussed directly with the workers concerned so that each worker could willingly sign the new contract as a sign of his being in full agreement with the new procedure. If not, the worker was requested to list his justified complaints so that his grievances could be discussed and improvements made.

In comparison with past wages, in as many as 90 percent of all wages involved, the workers now make more, provided they fulfill their norms and work full time. The rest had to accept a reduction in the take-home pay, and most of those concerned recognized the necessity for such a development. True,

in some brick works there were expressions of false solidarity between workers whose incomes were raised and those who began to earn less. However, after some explanations, political and union maturity prevailed and old slogans to the effect that "after all, we all have to eat and all have the same stomach" were defeated.

After all, the language of the take-home pay envelope is the most telling one : the fact is that in the West Bohemian brick works the average hourly wage is to increase by 0.27 koruny in piece work, and by 0.13 koruny in time work. (Pra, 8 Apr 60, p 3)

Transportation and Communications

The new reloading railroad station at Velke Kapusany, East Slovakian Kraj - where shipments arriving by rail from the USSR are transferred to our standard-gauge railroad cars - is still having difficulties.

Most of them are caused by people. For instance, many users of our railroad cars, and many railroad crews, often neglect to clean the cars, so that they can be loaded again. Once it happened that seven cars were returned to the railroad station of their origin to be cleaned, but the chief of that station sent them back in the same dirty state. This, of course, delays the circulation of cars.

Some obstacles, however, derive from the lack of spare parts and the absence of reserve locomotives in Velke Kapusany. The new Diesel-electric locomotives have frequent breakdowns, and when that happens, it takes an hour before another locomotive is sent from Humenne. During that time, work on the loading ramps must be stopped. (VN, 9 Apr 60, p 2)

Industrial television is currently being used in the Usti nad Labem goods and passenger railroad yards. Three television cameras were installed recently and one dispatcher can supervise the entire area on closed-circuit TV. (NS, 8 Apr 60, p 1)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Reorganization of the CSM organization in the newly established East Slovakian Kraj will be completed at a CSM constituent kraj conference opening in Kosice in 9 April 1960. More than 330 delegates, elected a week ago at constituent okres conferences, will represent the 80,746 CSM members in the kraj and elect the new CSM kraj leadership.

The conference will surely discuss the successes as well as the shortcomings of the CSM organization in Eastern Slovakia. Among the latter, one of the most serious is the poor participation of our youth in aid to agriculture. There are also many deficiencies in political educational work, and foremost among them is its poor quality. (VN, 9 Apr 60, p 1)

The constituent kraj conference of the CSM organization for the new East Slovakian Kraj took place on 9 April 1960 in Kosice. Jozef PETKAC, delegate of the CSM CC, reviewed the growth of political and labor consciousness among the youth. The principal tasks of the new kraj organization are to ensure that young people are trained and dispatched to the "Vychodoslovenske Zeleziarne" (East Slovakian Iron Works), where 400 are to be sent, and to give aid to agriculture, mainly in the furthering of the collectivization program. So far, 77 percent of the kraj's agricultural land has been collectivized, CSM members will form agitation collectives to win over the remaining independent farmers to cooperative membership. They will also establish 50,000 cubic meters of compost pits. Comrade PETKAC was unanimously elected chairman of the new CSM kraj committee. Four secretaries were also elected. (VN, 12 Apr 60, p 2)

At the constituent conferences of the new okres organizations, North Bohemian Kraj CSM members adopted many responsible tasks requiring self-sacrifice and enthusiasm. Miroslav ROUBICEK, who was designated chairman of the North Bohemian Kraj CSM committee, reviewed the tasks adopted by CSM members in the individual okreses : In Chomutov, they pledged to make building materials equivalent to 15 million bricks; in Liberec, they will help in land amelioration projects; in Ceska Lipa, they will establish 3,500 cubic meters of compost pits, and so on. Everywhere the young people are determined to contribute their share in the fulfillment of economic tasks. (Pru, 9 Apr 60, p 2)

A Komsomol youth delegation from the USSR arrived in Cheb, West Bohemian Kraj, and engaged in a series of friendly talks with young people of the okres. Before their departure, they received a number of small gifts, such as fountain pens, as souvenirs. (Pra, 7 Apr 60, p 1)

Other Items

For years, vegetables have been in short supply in Usti nad Labem, the capital of North Bohemian Kraj. For this reason, the editors of Pruboj directed a few questions to Jan MIXA, deputy manager of the Usti organization for the supply of vegetables and fruit.

Question : "Will there be any improvement in the deliveries of vegetables ?"

Answer : "More vegetables will be bought from the growers this year [1960] than last year. However, fresh green vegetables are really in short supply. The trouble is that the city's Department of Gardens, which owns almost all the okres' hothouses, raises vegetables in ever diminishing quantities - all this in spite of a government directive which specifies that 70 percent of the hothouse space is to be used for growing vegetables."

Question : "Does that mean that there will be no vegetables on sale in the city ?"

Answer : "Certainly not ! Other okreses will help out. Agricultural cooperatives and state farms of the okres fortunately do understand the importance of raising vegetables Nevertheless, it's a pity that the Usti nothouses raise nothing but flowers...."

Question : "What new products are there to be found on the market this year ?"

Answer : "Well, last year [1959] there was a shortage of root vegetables, especially carrots. This shortage should be overcome this year, since we closed special contracts with carrot growers. Then, of course, from June to the beginning of September, there is a shortage of all kinds of vegetables. This problem is to be solved by canning and packaging various vegetables at times of their prime growth so that deliveries of the products can be staggered. The average consumption of

vegetables and fruit is to rise this year by almost 7 and 3 kilograms, respectively, per head in comparison to 1959." (Pru, 7 Apr 60, p 1)

A new sprinklingsystem, "artificial rain", is to be exhibited in Moscow. It has been produced by the "Zelezarny Petra Bezruce" iron works in Olomouc, North Bohemian Kraj. (NS, 7 Apr 60, p 1)

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